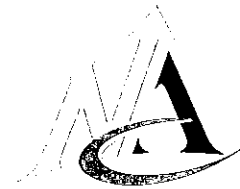


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21 July 2008



NORTH AYRSHIRE
COUNCIL

SHEP on Battlefields
Historic Scotland
Room 2.9
Longmore House
Salisbury Place
EDINBURGH
EH9 1SH

Dear Sir/Madam

OFFICER'S RESPONSE TO SCOTTISH HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT POLICY (SHEP) ON HISTORIC BATTLEFIELDS

I refer to your consultation on historic battlefields and offer the following observations from North Ayrshire Council's appropriate Technical Officer.

The aim of Historic Scotland's recent Scottish Historic Environmental Policy (SHEP) on historic battlefields is to identify, protect and manage battlefields that have not been affected already by development activity.

Question 1:

There may be a need for a policy which identifies, protects and manages historic battlefields in North Ayrshire but the locational implications need to be identified and understood before support can be confirmed.

Potentially, there could be conflict with existing Local Plans which promote development.

Elements of this SHEP could be incorporated within Scottish Planning Policy 23 (SPP 23): Planning & the Historic Environment. This would consolidate and co-ordinate national policy on Historic Environments more effectively and would increase the strength and awareness of Historic Scotland's policy on historic battlefields, among planning practitioners and other relevant stakeholders.

Question 4:

A non-statutory inventory of national important battlefields is supported. If required, Historic Scotland should work with the Council's regional archaeological service – WOSAS – in preparing the non-statutory inventory.

In addition, an inventory of this kind would strengthen the status of historic battlefields within a Local Authorities' Development Plan(s).

Question 6:

The expertise of Historic Scotland should be used to identify and map the battlefields of national and local importance, and to advise on any conflicting views on location and significance. If this were to happen, then appropriate planning policies can be considered.

Question 9/...

Question 9:

Policy guidance should specify best practice guidance for both development planning and development management. I believe this guide should be referred to within SPP 23.

I have no further comments to make and have enclosed a completed Respondent Information Form.

Yours faithfully,



Andrew McNair
Planning Officer

Enc.

